

REMARKS

The Office action dated June 7, 2011, and the references cited therein have been received and carefully reviewed. Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

As a preliminary matter, the Office action was discussed during a personal interview with Examiner Prange and her Supervisor, Examiner Mohandesi, on September 14, 2011, for which, the Applicants and Applicants' representatives would like to thank Examiners Prange and Mohandesi for granting the interview, and their helpful comments and suggestions during the interview. Applicants' statement of the substance of the interview is provided in connection with specific claim rejections herein.

As a result of the Office action, claims 22-27, 29-31, 36, 37, 40, and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP-3059476 (JP '476 hereinafter) in view of US 2003/0075561 to Pieri and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,612,769 to Lee. Claims 34 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '476, Pieri, Lee, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,790,429 to Fukushima. And, claims 32, 33, 38, and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '476, Pieri, Lee, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,074,544 to Bollmeier. These rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the foregoing amendments and following reasons, and favorable reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

As discussed and agreed during the personal interview, claim 22 has been amended and it now recites, among other features, “a pair of spaced apart flexible receptacles disposed on a flat flexible thin web for each substance, each of said receptacles including a flat edge portion having an outlet therein; a fold line extending over the flat flexible thin web and disposed equidistant between the receptacles; . . . a pair of rupturable outlets each having an inlet along a flat edge and each being in fluid communication with a respective one of said pair of receptacle outlets; wherein a perforated tear line extends between and separates each one of said pair of inlets and respective one of said pair of receptacle outlets . . .” No new

matter has been added by this amendment, and support for this amendment is found in, for example, Figures 1 and 4, and page 5, lines 26-30 of the specification, and original claims 24-27. Applicants respectfully submit that JP '476 does not teach or disclose at least these features, and none of the other cited prior art references address the shortcomings of JP '476.

First, claims 24-27 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering their rejections moot.

Second, amended claim 22 now positively recites a flat flexible thin web for supporting the spaced apart receptacles thereon. Applicants respectfully submit that JP '476 does not disclose a flat flexible thin web, as now required by amended claim 22. The receptacles or storage trays 3 of JP '476 are configured to be directly attached to one another along their peripheral edge and at most separated by a perforation along that peripheral edge.

Third, each receptacle now includes a flat edge portion having an outlet therein. As best seen in Figure 1 of the current application, that edge portion is identified by reference numeral 8.

Fourth, the pair of rupturable outlets each now has an inlet along a flat edge, which is in fluid communication with the respective outlet of the receptacle. That is, when the receptacles are in a state of original non-use configuration, the outlet of each receptacle is in fluid communication with the inlet of respective rupturable outlet.

Fifth, a perforated tear line extends in between and separates each one of the pair of inlets and the respective one of the pair of receptacle outlets. Therefore, as stated in the specification on page 5, lines 26-30, not only the rupturable outlet may burst as result of squeezing the receptacles to dispense the contents of each receptacle, but also, alternatively, the rupturable outlets may be torn along the perforated tear line, thereby exposing the outlet of the spaced apart receptacles along the flat edge for dispensing the contents of the receptacles.

Clearly, JP '476 does not disclose a rupturable outlet as a means of dispensing the content of receptacles. Moreover, although JP '476 discloses a half cut 6 which can be torn off to expose an outlet, the half cut clearly cannot be construed as an extended perforated tear

line between the inlet of a rupturable outlet and the outlet along the edge portion of each flexible receptacle. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that JP '476 does not teach or disclose the above-noted features now required by amended claim 22.

Moreover, as discussed during the interview, it is respectfully submitted that neither Pieri, Lee, nor Fukushima, taken individually or in combination thereof, remedies the deficiencies in the primary citation to JP '476 discussed hereinabove. Accordingly, without conceding the propriety of the asserted combinations, the asserted combinations are likewise deficient, even in view of the knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art. Therefore, in view of foregoing, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 22 under Section 103 are respectfully requested.

Claims 23-27 and 29-41 are dependent from claim 22 and are therefore believed to be allowable for the same reasons as claim 22.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance, and respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If any issues remain that can be clarified by telephone, Examiner Prange is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the number indicated below.

If necessary, the Director is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 07-1337 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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